

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

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 Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Soviet Military Mission in Czechoslovakia is attached to the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense and headed by a Soviet general (name unknown), who is in fact one of the deputies to the Minister of National Defense, Alexej Cepicka. A Soviet officer of general's rank is attached to each department of the General Staff (Oddeleni hl.stabu), to each combat arm command of the General Staff (Velitelstvi zbrani), and to all sections of the Ministry of National Defense. A number of Soviet officers are also attached to the above departments and sections, the largest number being with the 2nd Department of the General Staff (Intelligence), where all memoranda and documents have to be produced in both languages. These Soviet officers wear Czech Army uniforms. They do not use their real names and at conferences are called by their first names and patronymics. Prof. Pelikan of the Czech Radio gives many of these officers intensive courses of Czech. 25X1
2. At the Military District HQ in Prague there are three Soviet generals and a large number of high ranking Soviet officers. Several officers are also attached to each corps HQ, and there is a Soviet officer (general or colonel) at each divisional HQ. Soviet instructors of officer's rank are attached to all training centers such as Strasice, Mimon, Cisarsky Les, and to all special military establishments and institutes.
3. the total strength of Soviet personnel attached to the Czechoslovak Army in February 1954 was 4,800. 25X1
4. The duties of the Soviet Military Mission are to reorganize the Czechoslovak Army entirely on Soviet lines as regards organization, training, tactics, weapons, military doctrine and all other aspects. At training centers the Soviet officers act as instructors on Soviet weapons and equipment. They do not hold command appointments but act as advisers and critics to the Czech commanders.
5. The Mission is administered by the Ministry of National Defense, which has a special personnel unit for this purpose attached to its personnel section. This unit is

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also headed by a Soviet general. It has nothing to do with the Soviet Embassy, and its personnel do not report their arrival or departure there.

6. There are no Soviet units in Czechoslovakia except the troops which guard the section of the railway line between Cierna (Cerna-N 48--26, E 22--06) and Slovenske Nove Mesto (N 48-24, E 21-40).
7. Senior Soviet officers in Prague who have their families with them live mainly in villas in the Bubenec and Letna sections of the city. A number of those without families are accommodated in the building formerly called Stefanikuv dum in Sokolska trida, Prague 2. Some 40 to 50 Tatra passenger cars with military and civilian license plates transport the Russians from Stefanikuv dum to various parts of the city.
8. Junior Soviet officers are billeted in the barracks, where special buildings have been erected for them. Sixty Russian officers are accommodated in the Vrsovice Barracks in Prague, formerly the barracks of the 28th Infantry Regiment.
9. In February 1954, houses and apartments were requisitioned by the military housing authorities in the Bubenec area between Cechova ulice, Stromovka, and former Podbabska streets. All apartment owners, except Party members and high government officials, were to be moved from there to Smichov (Hrebenky) and Podbaba to make room for Soviet officers who were to be concentrated here. This was being done under a scheme called Action (Akce) B-70, under which 70,000 families were to be moved within or out of Prague within six months. Up to February 1954 over 5,000 had been moved. The actual execution of the move (transporting of furniture, etc.) was by Czech Army transport and personnel.

Comments.

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1. It is believed that the report, although basically true, contains exaggerated assertions, especially as far as the number of Soviet officers present in Czechoslovakia is concerned.
2. The Soviet Military Mission to Czechoslovakia is believed to be headed by the Soviet military attache. All Soviet military advisers are believed to be subordinated to the Soviet Military Mission and to attend regular meetings in Prague in order to report on their work and receive new instructions.
3. If this report were accurate, there would be about 30 Soviet generals attached to the Ministry of National Defense and the General Staff alone, which is improbable. However, there may be a liaison group between the Soviet Mission and the Ministry of National Defense and the General Staff. It is not believed that Soviet Army officers wear Czechoslovak uniforms as a concealment or for any other reason.
4. Military districts, corps, and divisional HQ's each have a high ranking Soviet officer, usually a colonel, attached as a military adviser. If there were three Soviet generals and a large number of high ranking Soviet officers at the Military District HQ in Prague, there would be more Soviet high ranking officers than Czech ones at this HQ, which does not seem plausible.
5. Czechoslovak military schools and important institutes have also Soviet military advisers attached to them, usually one per unit. The training centers as such

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do not have Soviet military advisers, because they have no organic units. They consist of areas which, for most of the year, are administered by a small number of administrative personnel and guarded by guard detachments.

6. The total number of Soviet officers present in Czechoslovakia is estimated at somewhere between 100 and 250.
7. It is not believed that there are any Soviet troops stationed in Czechoslovakia. The presence of a Soviet guard detachment of the railroad line section between Cierna nad Tisou and Slovenske Nove Mesto is doubted, as Russian trains cannot go beyond Cierna nad Tisou because of the difference in gauge.
8. The requisitioning of houses by the military authorities also appears exaggerated. While many thousands of families have been forcibly moved out of Prague, this was not done primarily to acquire military housing, but rather to relieve the acute housing shortage and to get rid of the politically unreliable population from the center of government administration.



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